

XXII.—NESTING OF THE GREY PARTRIDGE
(*FRANCOLINUS PONDICERIANUS* GMEL.)

I wish to report what to me is rather an unusual occurrence. On my return from home from three months' leave last month I found that a pair of Grey Partridge had taken up their abode in my bungalow in the middle of this camp. They always roosted in the same tree and the cockbird always piped his *reveille* about 5 a.m. Some days afterwards I missed the hen bird and thought that she must have been taken by a jackal, which abound here. However, my Sikh orderly found her later sitting on six eggs behind a small *Duranta* hedge, in the middle of some old hedge cuttings not 15 yards from where five horses remain picketed out till 10 p.m. The hen bird is quite tame and will, I trust, live to hatch out the eggs.

Isn't it strange?

(1) For Grey Partridges to lay so late in the season?

(2) To be so tame as to nest not 15 yards from a comparatively large stable where syces are coming and going all day?

I thought the above might be of interest as I have never seen a case like this in 26 years in India—not even in the jungles of Central India.

DELHI CANTONMENT.
October 20, 1932.

D. B. EDWARDS,
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[The Grey Partridge usually lives in patches of grass jungle between cultivated areas often in close proximity to villages. The present instance of a pair breeding in the heart of a populous Cantonment is unusual and interesting. The birds are very irregular breeders and the eggs have been taken in almost every month of the year. The bird usually has two breeding seasons; the first principally during March and April, the second during August and September.—EDS.].

XXIII.—THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GREEN PIT VIPER
(*TRIMERESURUS GRAMINEUS*, SHAW) AT NAGPUR.

The other day a specimen of this Viper, caught under a water butt near the Cotton Market, was brought to me alive in a bottle. Its head not being visible, I concluded it was the common green snake *Macropisthodon plumbicolor* and was on the point of turning it out and seizing it with my hands, when the green colour, however, struck me as being rather vivid, and a closer look at its head revealed its identity. This is the first specimen I have seen at Nagpur. Wall says 'It does not occur in the plains of India, but affects an altitude of from 1,500 to 6,000 feet.' Nagpur is just below 1,000 feet.

CENTRAL MUSEUM,
NAGPUR.
August 18, 1932.

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